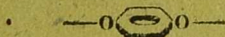


THE
VALUE OF TIME.



~~~~~  
A Reward from the Sunday-School.  
~~~~~



London :

PRINTED BY J. AND C. EVANS,

Long-Lane, W. Smithfield.

FRONTISPIECE.



'Tis but a short uncertain space
Allow'd us here to live ;
Death unperceiv'd, comes on apace,
And may no warning give.

THE
VALUE OF TIME.



~~~~~  
A Present from the Sunday-School.  
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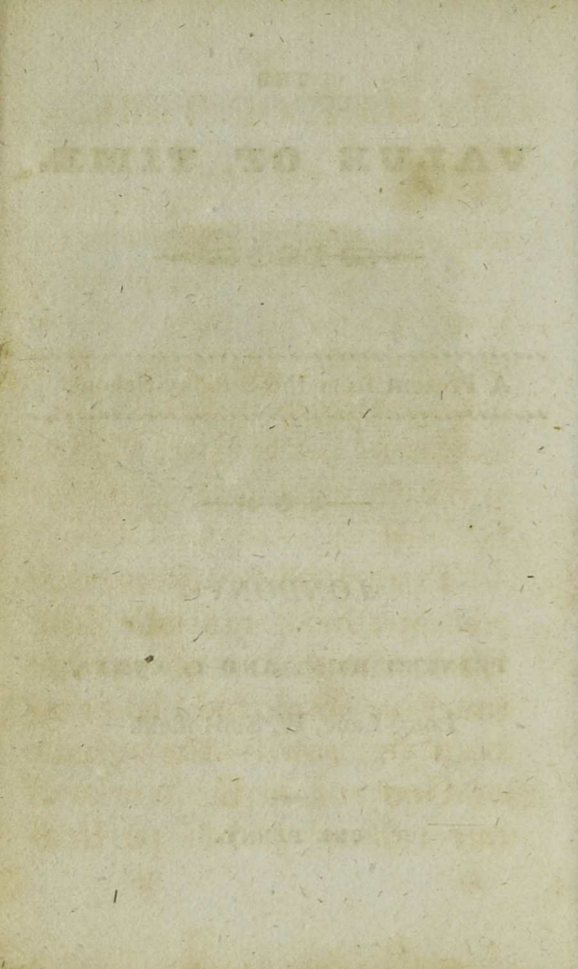
LONDON :

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ONE PENNY.



THE
VALUE OF TIME.



TIME is so precious, that not any of it must be lost. The whole time of our life must be employed either about our souls—the service of God, or in the works of our callings ; but particu-

larly the time of youth—the time of health and strength—the time of affliction—the time of the gospel—and the time of the Sabbath.

The time of youth must be redeemed. The great God stands much upon priority, that is to have the first and best—the first ripe fruits—the first that openeth the womb. / My dear child, offer the Isaac of thy youth, the spring and flower of thy age, to God, and stay not until the evil day. Begin first with Him from whom thou hadst thy being ;—go

about the grand affair and work of thy never-dying soul, before thou dost ingulph thyself in the cares of this world. / If the celestial seeds of grace are sown in the morning, the pleasant and sweet flowers springing out of those seeds, will invite the Lord Jesus to come and walk in his garden.— The infinitely gracious God holds out the golden sceptre, and invites you to come to him. The ruddy David, the child Samuel, the young Timothy, God calls. Say then, now, Behold, we come :

thine we are, thine we will be : come now and take thy own.' God will accept you : his arms and bosom are open to receive you. 'I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when the first fruits were holiness unto the Lord. If you would enjoy a happy life of communion with God, offer unto him the firstlings of thy flock,—thy youthful days. If you receive the seed of grace in the morning of your age, it will take the deeper root in your heart, and cause you to bring forth

fruit even in your old age. That cloth will keep its colour best that is dyed in the wool; and the vessel will longest retain the scent of that liquor with which it is first seasoned. ‘O! remember then thy Creator in the days of thy youth!’

The time of health and strength must be improved. Those that are now strong and lively, must not expect to be so always; they, as well as others, must count upon disease, sickness, and weakness, which will confine them to their houses,

chambers, and beds. O ! that while their strength and health of body, and natural vigour are continued, they were mindful of their work and time ! If a man had business of great concern, or matter of life and death, that required time, strength and diligence, and should omit it till he were stricken in years, or till sickness or weakness had invaded him, every one would be ready to charge him with folly ; and shall we lay the stress of our everlasting state upon a few days of sickness and weak-

ness before our death?—
God forbid!

The time of Affliction must be redeemed. Christians, whether young or old, in the time of adversity we must consider! It was the time of Jacob's trouble when the apostles exhorted believers to redeem the time.—God speaks to us by his rod as well as by his word; for every affliction addresses us in the language of Ehud to Eglon, 'I have a message unto thee from God;' and God will reckon with us for the rods he lays upon us.

The time of the Gospel must be redeemed. Gospel time is our spiritual harvest, and it is a notorious folly to sleep in harvest. It is a time of light—a time of love—a time of life—a time of liberty ! ‘It is now an accepted time—a day of salvation !’ Sinners ! the dear Lord Jesus, the great Peace-maker, is now an importunate suitor to your perishing souls ! The treasures of grace are open, and offered to you on easy terms, ‘without money and without price !’ O make haste and buy the pearl

of price, which is better than rubies ! If you lose this, you may never have another opportunity ! ‘The Spirit and the Bride say, Come.’

The time of the Sabbath must be redeemed. We must sanctify the whole of that day : it is the Sabbath of the Lord our God. It must be spent, from morning till evening, in the service and worship of God, either in public, social, or secret duties ; and no part of it must be spent in frothy, vain, and unprofitable discourse or recreations ; in

riding, buying, selling, or working. This dreadful sin of Sabbath-breaking is a sin in fashion. Hundreds in this nation serve the Devil more upon the Lord's-day than upon any other day. The Lord of the Sabbath hath commanded, that thou and all thy house keep that day holy. The Sabbath was once called 'The Queen of Days.' In the New Testament, it is called 'The Lord's-Day.' In the primitive times, a serious and strict observation of the Lord's-day was a test of Christianity. When the

question was asked, Hast thou kept the Lord's-day? the answer returned was, I am a Christian, and cannot intermit it. It was the saying of an eminent divine, That he judged of a man's religion according as he revered the Sabbath.

HYMN.

TIME is ever on the wing,
 Gliding unperceiv'd away;
 Mortals, feel the truth I sing,
 Life is but a transient day;
 Like the verdant with'ring grass,
 Or the early fading flower,
 All the generation pass,
 Bloom and wither in an hour!

FINIS.

